

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 24

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES; AMENDING CHAPTER 4, TITLE 49, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 49-403B, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR GOLD STAR LICENSE PLATES; AND AMENDING SECTION 65-209, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR CREDITING CERTAIN MONEYS TO THE VETERANS SUPPORT FUND, TO REVISE THE USE OF FUND MONEYS AND TO REVISE TERMINOLOGY.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 4, Title 49, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 49-403B, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

49-403B. GOLD STAR – LICENSE PLATES. (1) In this section:

(a) "Combat zone" means those locations involving a "period of war" as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(11) and such other locations and times as the division of veterans services may define by rule.

(b) "Qualifying cause of death" means a death of a person due to hostile action while serving in the armed forces of the United States on active duty in a combat zone as the division of veterans services may define by rule.

(c) "Qualifying family member" means the surviving spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, half-sibling, stepsibling, grandparent or legal guardian of a person who died due to a qualifying cause of death.

(2) Qualifying family members are eligible to apply for gold star license plates. As proof of eligibility, the applicant shall furnish to the department a statement from the division of veterans services certifying eligibility.

(3) The division of veterans services shall establish by rule the requirements for receipt of a certificate of eligibility including proof of qualifying familial relationship to the deceased service member and the death of the service member due to a qualifying cause of death.

(4) No special plate program fee shall be charged in addition to regular registration or renewal of registration of a motor vehicle owned by the spouse, parent or stepparent of a service member who was killed during active military service in a combat zone and receiving gold star license plates.

(5) A qualifying family member who is not the spouse, parent or stepparent shall be charged the regular registration fee and plate fee required in section 49-450, Idaho Code, and an additional fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for the initial issuance of plates and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) upon each succeeding annual registration. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the initial fee and ten dollars (\$10.00) of the renewal fee shall be deposited in the state highway account and shall be used to fund the cost of administration of this gold star license plate program. Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) of each initial fee and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of each renewal

1 fee shall be deposited in the veterans support fund, section 65-209, Idaho Code, and shall be
 2 used to defray the costs of administration of the eligibility certification program and to provide
 3 programs to support veterans.

4 (6) Gold star license plates shall be used only on a motor vehicle owned by the
 5 qualifying family member.

6 (7) Whenever title or interest in a motor vehicle registered under this section is
 7 transferred or assigned, the registration shall expire, but the qualifying family member may
 8 transfer the gold star license plates to another motor vehicle upon payment of the required
 9 transfer fees. The qualifying family member may only display the gold star license plates after
 10 receipt of new registration from the department.

11 (8) A qualifying family member shall not register more than two (2) motor vehicles
 12 under this section. This section shall not apply to any motor vehicle with a registered
 13 maximum gross weight over twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds, nor to any vehicle registered
 14 under section 49-434(5), Idaho Code.

15 (9) Gold star license plates may be retained and displayed on motor vehicles owned
 16 by the surviving spouse of a qualifying family member. In addition, the surviving spouse is
 17 eligible to reapply for and shall be issued gold star license plates if the deceased qualifying
 18 family member died on or after January 1 of the five (5) years preceding the date of
 19 reapplication for the gold star license plates. Such plates shall be used only on a motor vehicle
 20 owned by the surviving spouse of the qualifying family member.

21 (10) The gold star license plates shall be of a color and design acceptable to the
 22 veterans affairs commission and approved by the department, utilizing a numbering system as
 23 determined by the department. Gold star license plates shall not be subject to discontinuance
 24 pursuant to section 49-402C(6), Idaho Code.

25 SECTION 2. That Section 65-209, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to
 26 read as follows:

27 65-209. VETERANS SUPPORT FUND. (1) There is hereby created in the state
 28 treasury the "Veterans Support Fund" to which shall be credited:

29 (a) The moneys designated under section 63-3067B, Idaho Code, and the moneys
 30 designated under section 49-403B, Idaho Code;

31 (b) Gifts, grants, contributions and bequests to the fund;

32 (c) Interest earned on the investment of idle moneys in the fund, which shall be paid to
 33 the fund; and

34 (d) All other moneys as may be provided by law.

35 (2) Moneys in the fund shall be used exclusively for the purposes of programs to support
 36 veterans, and to defray the costs of administering gold star license plates eligibility pursuant
 37 to section 49-403B, Idaho Code. Moneys in the fund shall be continuously appropriated for
 38 such purposes.

39 (3) Disbursements of moneys from the fund shall be made upon authorization of the
 40 administrator of the division of veterans services.